



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

March 4, 2005

News Release

TWO ALLEDGED SMUGGLERS INDICTED ON TWENTY-SIX COUNTS

MIAMI – Marcos Daniel Jiménez, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; Jesus Torres, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Rear Admiral D. Brian Peterman, Commander - 7th Coast Guard District, United States Coast Guard (USCG), announced today an Indictment returned on Feb. 16, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in Key West, Florida, charging defendants, Jose Luis Gonzalez and Yudiesky Machado-Gonzalez, with one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(A), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and 25 substantive counts of alien smuggling, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(A).

Both defendants made their initial appearances Thursday in federal court in Miami, Florida, following their arrests. If convicted on the alien smuggling conspiracy count, the defendants face a maximum statutory term of one year in prison. If convicted on the substantive alien smuggling counts, the defendants face a maximum statutory term of one year in prison as to each count.

On Dec. 5, 2004, a USCG cutter located a 27' vessel sixteen 16 nautical miles from Santa Clara, Cuba. The vessel was found to contain 25 Cuban nationals and two United States parolees from Cuba. Mr. Jiménez commended the investigative efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, and the United States Coast Guard.

Assistant United States Attorney Benjamin Daniel is prosecuting the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.